

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-59 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-19 and 53-59 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 20-29 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falster et al. (WO 98/45507) in view of Park (6,485,807). Claims 30-34, 38-39 and 45-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falster et al. (WO 98/45507) in view of Park (6,485,807) and further in view of Falster et al. (U.S. 5,919,302). Claims 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falster et al. (WO 98/45507) in view of Park (6,485,807) and Falster et al. (U.S. 5,919,302) and in further view of Tamatsuka et al. (6162708). Claims 43-44 and 52 Claims 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falster et al. (WO 98/45507) in view of Park (6,485,807) and in further view of Tamatsuka et al. (6162708). Finally, claims 35-37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. The Objection of claims 35-37

Claims 35-37 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, claim 20, but have been found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the requirements of claim 35. Thus, claim 20, as amended, now corresponds to claim 35 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and as such is now in condition for allowance. Claim 35 was cancelled since claim 20 was amended to incorporate the requirements of claim 35.

Claims 36 and 37 each depend from claim 20, as amended, which is now in condition for allowance. As such, the Objection of claims 36 and 37 has been obviated. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20, 36 and 37 are now in condition for allowance and request that the claims be allowed.

C. Rejection of claims 20-34 and 38-52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 30-34 and amended claim 20 to include all of the requirements of claim 35. As stated above, claim 35 has already been found allowable if rewritten in independent form and as such, claim 20 as amended is now in condition for allowance. Claim 21-29 and 38-52 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 20, as amended, and as such are patentable for the same reasons as claim 20, as amended.

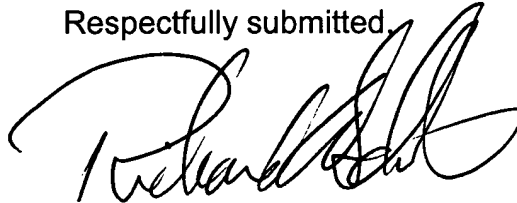
Applicants traverse the various findings upon which claims 20-34 and 38-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). However, in view of the fact that claim 20 was amended to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants will not burden the Office with their arguments. Applicants expressly reserves the right to pursue originally filed claims 20-34 and 38-52 in a continuing application and present such arguments at a later date.

CONCLUSION

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited.

* Applicants request an extension of time to and including September 30, 2004 for filing a response to the above-mentioned Office action. A check in payment of the applicable extension fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is requested to charge any fee deficiency or overpayment in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard A. Schuth, Reg. No. 47,929
SENNIGER POWERS
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

RAS/skd
*Enclosures